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September 3, 1988

Executive Registry

88-3458X

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF TREASURY
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY
THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT
CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
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PLANNING ACTIVITY
DIRECTOR, WHITE HOUSE MILITARY OFFICE
CABINET SECRETARY, DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL


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SUBJECT: National Security Information and Situation
Management System (NSI&SMS) (C)

The President has approved the attached National Security Decision Directive (NSDD). This NSDD establishes and updates guidelines for sustaining and improving the nation's crisis situation and information management capabilities. It codifies the oversight, coordinating, and procedural aspects of the NSI&SMS. (S)

FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Attachment:
NSDD-314


Colin L. Powell

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 8, 1988

NATIONAL SECURITY DECISION
DIRECTIVE NUMBER 314THE NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION AND SITUATION MANAGEMENT
SYSTEM (NSI&SMS) (C).

This directive updates policy and guidelines for sustaining and improving the nation's crisis management capability in support of the President, the National Security Council (NSC), and the interagency community. It builds on the technical progress achieved since signature of NSDD 95 in May 1983, and codifies the oversight, coordination, and procedural dimensions of a National Security Information and Situation Management System (NSI&SMS), consistent with the responsibilities assigned to Executive departments and agencies under current law and Presidential directives, and the NSC structure and process approved in NSDD 266 and NSDD 276. This directive supersedes NSDD 95. (S)

Background

NSDD 95 established a framework for national-level crisis management and for making critical technical and procedural enhancements to associated department and agency operations centers. This framework was termed the Crisis Information and Management System (CIMS) and was designed to sustain effective and uninterrupted crisis management by providing a means of recording and disseminating adequate and timely intelligence, information, analyses, and policy options in a form usable by top-level decision makers. This system was to include rigorous mechanisms for accessing, preserving and archiving historical data and associated decisions. It was also intended to ensure a coordinated flow of information from the White House and other CIMS operations centers to Continuity of Government (COG) elements to support, if required, an orderly, constitutional devolution of responsibilities in conditions of extreme crisis. (TS)

Implementation of NSDD 95, in conjunction with associated department and agency technical upgrades, significantly improved the nation's ability to respond to crises. The CHOSUN project, now referred to as the Secure Video Teleconferencing System (SVTS), created a secure, multi-media telecommunications system for exchanging information. The urgent focus of CIMS was on communications and coordination among principals in crises up through the prospect of nuclear attack. NSDD 95 has

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now established a foundation for further improving and codifying interagency coordination procedures. In addition, the opportunity to build on the existing SVTS infrastructure applies not only at the working levels of crisis operations but also across a spectrum of daily activities during peacetime. (S)

A National Security Information and Situation Management System (NSI&SMS) is required to reap fully the broader benefits of the new technology and facilities that were introduced initially for top-level crisis management alone. This directive codifies a process incorporating improvements made to date and addresses the requirements for effective interagency coordination in the future. The principles and longer-term objectives of the NSI&SMS are outlined below. (C)

Policy Principles

The NSI&SMS is an interagency network of people, facilities, equipment, information resources, plans, policies and procedures designed to provide for: (1) support to national-level decision makers in monitoring national security situations and in considering, implementing, or reporting on any U.S. response; and (2) a rapid and continuous flow of information regarding national security situations across a spectrum from peacetime activity through reconstitution following nuclear attack. (S)

The purpose of the NSI&SMS is to continue supporting the national leadership with the best and most timely information possible, ensuring that the policy and decision making process will not be impaired by a lack of information, procedures for coordination, or secure communications and data transmission capabilities. To the maximum possible extent, the interagency process used to support decision-making during crisis situations shall involve the same trained personnel, reliable equipment, and familiar procedures approved for use on a daily basis. This principle applies to periods of international tension or crisis and, to the extent possible, to domestic emergencies, such as natural disasters, terrorism, or technological hazards, that may affect national security interests. (C)

Those responsible for operating, improving and modernizing the NSI&SMS shall seek to ensure interoperability among the family of Continuity of Government (COG) programs, the Nuclear Command and Control System (NCCS), National Security Emergency Preparedness (NSEP) plans, the National System for Emergency Coordination (NSEC) concept as it may be implemented, and other key programs. In this sense, interoperability requires extensive interagency coordination to provide for essential

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elements of information, procedures, interactive systems, and other components necessary to support effectively national-level decision making. (TS)

The continuous, effective operation of the NSI&SMS is crucial and requires each agency's understanding of its individual role in the interagency process. Enhancing the integration of existing operations and intelligence centers shall be achieved through measured improvements that have been identified as user requirements through the interagency process. Executive departments and agencies will budget for, procure, install, operate, and maintain compatible equipment and capabilities, and share appropriately the cost of system improvements that may be required to sustain acceptable levels of integration within the NSI&SMS. (S)

Implementation

Leadership and oversight of the NSI&SMS shall be provided by the NSC through the Crisis Management Working Group (CMWG), chaired by the NSC's Deputy Executive Secretary for Situation Support. The CMWG shall further develop the NSI&SMS and strengthen interagency capabilities and procedures for the collection, coordination, transmission, and dissemination of information in support of the President and the NSC interagency process. (C)

The CMWG will report to the Policy Review Group (PRG). The PRG, as outlined in NSDD 276, is the senior sub-Cabinet level interagency group which is chaired by the Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. The PRG's primary responsibility is to review and make recommendations concerning national security policy developed through the day-to-day functioning of the interagency process. PRG recommendations are submitted for consideration of the National Security Planning Group or the National Security Council, as appropriate. As the subject matter may dictate, appropriate representatives from the Executive Office of the President and other departments and agencies shall be included in meetings of the PRG. (C)

The CMWG shall meet regularly. The CMWG chair shall establish a Steering Group to assist in developing and monitoring the CMWG agenda. The Steering Group shall be primarily comprised of senior representatives of Executive departments and agencies who regularly report to members of the PRG. Appropriate CMWG Steering Group members, in support of their PRG principals, shall meet at the outset of, or during, a situation when necessary to ensure effective information management and coordination among operations and intelligence centers. (S)

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The CMWG shall be the principal interagency working group for coordination and consideration of national security policy recommendations concerning the integration and interoperability of COG programs. (TS)

The CMWG shall:

- Oversee formulation of policy recommendations relating to the NSI&SMS to ensure a system responsive to national needs; (S)
- Ensure that the national security-related emergency responsibilities assigned to individual departments and agencies under existing law, Presidential directive, executive order, and federal response plans are mutually compatible, and that appropriate procedures for interagency coordination are available and widely understood; (C)
- Ensure technical and operational capabilities are maintained and developed consistent with NSI&SMS objectives; (C)
- Ensure effective use of resources expended in establishing, operating, and modernizing the NSI&SMS; promoting interagency equipment compatibility; and recommending to the PRG priorities for those improvements that will enhance interagency information flow; (C)
- Ensure integration of the NSI&SMS with COG, NCCS, NSEP, and other interagency coordination systems related to national security, without compromising the integrity of compartmented information; (TS)
- Ensure that the NSI&SMS supports the Director of Central Intelligence in monitoring and transmitting information on the world situation in the context of operational requirements for early warning; (TS)
- Identify for key departments and agencies the essential elements of information required by the President during periods of extreme crisis, and ensure the capability to coordinate the flow of this information at the appropriate time among the White House, Washington-area operations and intelligence centers, and COG elements; (TS)
- Ensure that interoperable equipment and compatible procedures are established among relevant departments and agencies to support the COG effort; and (TS)

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